

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

December 20, 2005

IN RE:

**PETITION OF MCIMETRO ACCESS
TRANSMISSION SERVICES, LLC FOR
ARBITRATION OF CERTAIN TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF A PROPOSED AGREEMENT
WITH BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS,
INC. CONCERNING INTERCONNECTION
AND RESALE**

**DOCKET NO.
05-00231**

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE
OF HEARING AND PRE-HEARING DEADLINES
AND AMENDING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

This matter came before the Pre-Arbitration Officer upon the filing of the *Joint Motion for Continuance of Hearing and Pre-Hearing Deadlines* (“*Joint Motion*”) on December 16, 2005. In the *Joint Motion*, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth”) and MCI Metro Access Transmission Services, LLC (“MCI”) jointly request that the deadlines¹ previously set in this docket be continued due to the pending merger between MCI and Verizon. As support for the *Joint Motion*, the parties state that after the merger MCI will need to assess the contract language in dispute and evaluate whether any of its positions on the issues should be modified. In addition, MCI intends to review whether it may be possible to resolve issues on which the parties previously had reached an impasse. The parties have scheduled four days to have negotiations during the continuance time period. Because the *Joint Motion* was filed by both

¹ See *Order Establishing a Procedural Schedule* (November 29, 2005)

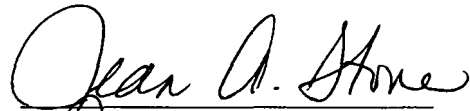
parties, neither BellSouth nor MCI will be prejudiced by the continuance. The parties state that by using the extension period for negotiation, they hope to resolve issues and conserve the TRA's and parties' time and resources. Finally, the parties suggest the following schedule for the remaining deadlines:

March 3, 2006	Revised Joint Issues Matrix due
March 28, 2006	Direct testimony due
May 31, 2006	Rebuttal testimony due
July 12-13, 2006	Proposed hearing dates

The Pre-Arbitration Officer finds that the *Joint Motion* is reasonable and should be granted. Therefore, the procedural schedule is amended as stated above. All filings are due no later than 2:00 p.m. on the dates indicated. The proposed hearing dates are subject to confirmation by the Arbitration Panel. After the final hearing dates are confirmed, an addendum to the procedural schedule will be issued and a pre-hearing conference date will be scheduled.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The *Joint Motion for Continuance of Hearing and Pre-Hearing Deadlines* is granted.
2. The procedural schedule is amended as stated herein.


Jean A. Stone, Counsel
as Pre-Arbitration Officer